Self-Assessment Validation System For Abbott Preschool Programs

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Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Mission/Philosophy	7
Administration	8
Recruitment and Outreach	12
Facilities	14
Community Collaboration	16
Head Start	18
Curriculum and Program.	19
Supporting English Language Learners	21
Special Education.	23
Staff Qualifications	26
Professional Development	29
Child Screening.	32
Child Assessment	34
Health and Food Services	36
Parental Involvement	
Program Evaluation	40
Supporting References	42

Introduction

The mandate of Abbott VI requires an assessment of all school and community-based preschool programs and the development and implementation of improvement plans to enable them to meet high-quality standards. The Self-Assessment Validation System (SAVS) has been developed to meet this mandate and to assist with program improvement. The criteria and protocol in this document will guide this multi-phase process.

The Office of Early Childhood Education has released a number of documents directly related to assuring quality preschool programs. It is important for each of these documents to be viewed collectively and not as separate entities. The primary focus of the SAVS is program improvement augmented by fiscal accountability. Each program area addressed in the SAVS can also be found in the *Abbott Preschool Program Implementation Guidelines*. Districts are familiar with the guidelines as they used them when writing their Three-year Operational Plans and developing one year budgets. Also, several of the areas in the SAVS are reflective of the *Preschool Teaching and Learning Expectations: Standards of Quality* document. Additionally, the Early Learning Improvement Consortium (ELIC) has been working in districts to conduct formal evaluations and observations of classrooms and compiling data that will assist with the SAVS.

The SAVS, by having a focus on program improvement, will be a gradual process and not a quick fix, thus there will initially be two phases. The following explains what will take place in each phase.

Phase I:

In this phase, the Early Childhood Supervisor and the assigned Department of Education liaison will work together, along with other relevant parties, primarily the newly established Early Childhood Advisory Council, to support their district's preschool program. Almost all areas of the SAVS are rated in Phase I of the process. However, the expectation is that there will be many criteria that are not "fully met." These areas will inform plan revisions and budget requests and serve as areas of concentration for the district. Throughout Phase I, the DOE liaison will support the district and help to devise a plan that will enable them to improve the sections that are "not yet" or "in progress." Since the SAVS is a program improvement tool, districts are encouraged to look critically and honestly at their programs. While there will be official validation at the end of Phase II, Phase I should be viewed as a time for self-assessment and planning for improvement.

Phase II

Certain sections of the SAVS will not be evaluated until spring 2004 as they represent new standards and are not yet well-established in districts. *These criteria and indicators are italicized for easy identification.* Phase II will allow the district and the DOE liaison to revisit the sections rated in Phase I and note growth, as well as areas still in need of development. As part of Phase II, a validation team, composed of individuals with expertise relevant to your district, will verify the information that has been reported in the

SAVS. Team members may include DOE representatives from other offices, including special education or bilingual education, Department of Human Services child care specialists, volunteers from other districts and community providers, along with DOE fiscal officers. The length of the visit will be contingent upon the size of the district. The team may conduct interviews, observations and checks of databases and consult other sources of information outlined in the SAVS. Results of the validation process will be shared with the district at the end of the visit.

Only two phases are anticipated at this time. However, it is important to keep in mind that the SAVS is not a final product, rather a working document. Changes are likely to occur as the SAVS is put into practice.

Key Terms:

Criterion: standard by which the components of the program will be rated.

Indicator: important points to consider when rating a criterion.

Preschool Program: all preschool classrooms in-district and in community providers.

Teachers: all teachers in preschool classrooms in-district and in community providers.

Scoring:

The following scoring protocol is adapted from the Accreditation Criteria & Procedures of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, 1998

Not Yet [1]	In Progress [2]	Fully Met [3]
This criterion is not met.	The criterion is partially met.	The criterion is completely met.
There is little evidence that this statement accurately describes the program but plans may have been developed.	There is some evidence that this statement accurately describes the program. Plans have been developed and initiated but full realization is not yet accomplished.	There is a great deal of evidence that this statement accurately describes the program. For a criterion to rate a [3], all indicators related to the criterion must be present. (It also is possible for all indicators to be present without rating the criterion a [3]).

Each criterion will be rated by placing a check mark in only one of the boxes. Explanations of ratings will be given in the blank space provided beside each criterion.

- the criterion is rated not yet [1]
- the criterion is in progress [2] the criterion is fully met [3]—no explanation is needed for this rating.

Program Area: Mission/Philosophy

Rationale: A mission statement should be unique to the community it serves and reflective of basic preschool principles. Also, mission statements should provide direction for the program and outline the ethical responsibilities of all staff. While philosophies generally inform the curriculum, they should also establish core values. The primary purpose of a mission statement/philosophy is to assure that program decisions are appropriate for all preschool children. An effective mission statement will resonate with the people working in and for the district, as well as with the different constituencies that the district hopes to affect. It must express the preschool program's purpose in a way that inspires commitment, innovation, and courage in both the school system and the community at large.

Criterion 1:	The preschool program has an effective mission statement reflective of sound preschool pedagogy and is responsive to the specific characteristics of the community.	Not yet	In progress	Fully me
	ent identifies the preschool program's inciples and beliefs.			
☐ The statem preschool	ent is designed to motivate and guide decisions.			
☐ The statem pedagogy.	ent is grounded in research-based, proven			
☐ The statem address (p	ent identifies the opportunities or needs it will urpose).			
☐ The statem	ent is designed to be inclusive of all children.			
families, c	ent was developed with input from staff, ommunity partners, private providers and the dhood Advisory Council.			

- Written statement
- Evidence of statement in other documents
- Three-year Preschool Operational Plan

Program Area: Administration

Rationale: Key to the success of any program is educational leadership and administrative oversight. To effectively operate high-quality preschool programs, school administrators must play an integral role in planning, execution, oversight, and evaluation of the preschool agenda. Individuals filling administrative positions should serve as educational leaders rather than simply managers. The role of the fiscal specialist should be to help private providers develop their program budgets, to monitor compliance with the contract, and to be responsible for collecting and reporting teacher tracking and certification information.

<u>Educational</u>	Leagersnip

Crite	erion 1:	Administrators overseeing the preschool program and educational leaders have the proper qualifications and training specific to early childhood education.	Not yet	In progress	Fully met
□ Al		trators possess early childhood credentials or ning in early childhood programming and			
ac	dministra	dence of communication among all areas of tion, including special education and ducation which informs decision-making.			
ec		tors serve as educational leaders by designing initiatives based on systematic program			
pı kı w ge	rogram w nowledge vith other	administrators are advocates for the preschool ithin the district and actively share their and experience of the preschool program district and school administrators, increasing areness of the preschool program and best			

Sources of Information:

Database

Program Are Administration					
Criterion 2:	Principals should have experience in early childhood education and proper qualification.	Not yet	In progress 2	Fully met	NA
Indicators: ☐ Principals	are knowledgeable of the curriculum.				
	possess early childhood credentials or pursue early childhood programming and practices.				
Sources of In • Databa					
of the fisc	ntability ia listed within this section should be the responsibility al specialist or designee assigned to such tasks less administrator).				
Criterion 3:	The fiscal specialist has a working knowledge of the preschool program.	Not yet	In progress 2	Fully met	NA
program, incl	specialist is familiar with the requirements of the uding the Abbott decisions, administrative implementation and budget guidelines, and contract.				
Criterion 4:	The fiscal specialist has a working familiarity with professional accounting standards and the proper training and skills to perform rigorous analyses of preschool provider budgets and required financial statements.	Not yet	In progress 2	Fully met	NA
profession	specialist has prior working experience with all accounting standards, or in analyzing ool or non-profit budgets and financial s.				

Program Are Administratio					
budgeting engaged in	specialist has professional certification in and/or accounting (CPA, CFE, etc.) or has a rigorous professional development activities ten his/her knowledge and skills in these				
computer/ spreadshed the selecti	specialist demonstrates the requisite technology skills to perform complex et analyses or to assist preschool providers in on and/or implementation of accounting e.g., QuickBooks, etc.)				
providers	☐ The fiscal specialist provides training and assistance to providers on budget development, accounting, and expense reporting.				
Sources of In Resum					
Criterion 5:	The fiscal specialist regularly collects and analyzes budgets and financial reports from private providers to ensure that their expenditures conform to approved budgets; fiscal practices conform to district contractual terms; and general fiscal integrity is maintained.	Not yet	In progress Fully	met NA	
performed statements compare a	specialist provides examples of analyses on private provider quarterly financial and annual external audits. These analyses ctual spending to budgeted appropriations to t monies are spent as intended.				
performed conformity	pecialist can provide examples of analyses on submitted preschool budgets to ensure with DOE regulations (FTE/salary analysis, osts, materials/supplies etc.). *				

* Criterion in italics represent new standards that may not be in effect until Phase II.

Program Are Administratio				
action one discrepand course of t of supervis	pecialist provides examples of appropriate e financial, legal, or contractual cies have been discovered during the regular monitoring (e.g., provide formal notification sor, seek additional n/documentation, alert appropriate DOE/prities). *			
* Criterion in ita until Phase I	lics represent new standards that may not be in effect II.			
☐ The fiscal s providers.	pecialist provides technical assistance to			
-	formation: rly Financial Reports ace of meetings with providers			
Criterion 6:	The fiscal specialist collects and reports	Not yet	In progress	Fully met
	teachers' tracking and certification information.	\square_1	\square_2	\square_3
certification	ate database containing teacher tracking and on is accessible by supervisors and others as needing access to this information.			

• Database

Program Area: Recruitment and Outreach

Rationale: All age-appropriate children residing in the Abbott districts are eligible for services. Issues such as toilet training, immigration status, and other individual circumstances cannot prevent a child from receiving services. In fact, the mandate is to serve all eligible children. Individual districts are unique and, therefore, no single recruitment strategy will work across districts. Rather, given the socio-economic status, as well as the location of a specific school district, certain approaches may be more effective. The school district, along with the Early Childhood Advisory Council, should take the time to research and analyze the most effective public information strategies for its community.

Criterion 1:	Multiple recruitment strategies are being	Not yet	In progress	Fully met
	used.	\square_1	\square_2	\square_3
informatio service and languages involved in	reness strategies such as fliers, phone on services, cable television, and public nouncements via the radio in appropriate are used. Various community resources are n suggesting recruitment methods, including Childhood Advisory Council.			
relevant to community	reness strategies and materials in languages of service population clearly indicate to the y that early childhood programs are available in with special needs.			
	Accurate enrollment data is collected, and updated as needed.	Not yet	In progress	Fully met
Indicators: ☐ Abbott Uniduring reg	form Preschool Enrollment form is used istration.			
☐ Assistance read and/or	is available for parents who are unable to write.			
	or forms in native language are available for se first language is not English.			
☐ Residency	is confirmed.			

Program Area: Recruitment and Outreach-continued	
☐ District has centralized enrollment procedures that occur year round.	
☐ Only age and residency status are used to determine eligibility.	

- Samples of strategies/materials used for outreach and recruitment
- Early Childhood Advisory Council minutes

Program Area: Facilities

Rationale: Facilities that provide safe and healthy learning environments are educationally adequate, and meet the Preschool Teaching and Learning Expectations: Standards of Quality and the Abbott Preschool Program Implementation Guidelines are essential to the realization of the New Jersey Supreme Court mandate that the children in the Abbott districts receive a high-quality, thorough and efficient preschool education. The physical environment affects both the behavior and development of children and the adults working in that environment.

Criterion 1:	An amended long-range facility plan (LRFP) that is based on an assessment of the universe, demographic trends, housing patterns and community needs has been submitted by the district.	Not yet	In progress	Fully met
•	Childhood Advisory Council has been the development of the amended LRFP.			
90 percent	orovides for classroom space to serve at least of eligible three- and four-year-olds by the school year.			
	plan does not supplant currently contracted providers who meet regulations and contract ons.			
	provides for full inclusion of children served y funded Head Start programs.			
		Not yet	In progress	Fully met
Criterion 2:	ECERS-R results and other facilities evaluations are used to assess the adequacy of school facilities and as a basis for improvements.		\square_2	\square_3

Program Area: Facilities-continued

- Facilities assessment based on a needs assessment (Indicators and Standards for Improving Schools ISIS) conducted by the district board of education
- LRFP
- ECERS-R results
- ELIC reports

Program Area: Community Collaboration

Rationale: It is considerably easier for children to develop and learn with the support of strong families who, in turn, enjoy the support of individuals and institutions in their surrounding communities. When families, schools, and community institutions (e.g., local businesses, community colleges, and health agencies) collectively agree upon their goals and decide how to reach them, everyone benefits. Effective collaborative relationships require communication that values and respects the opinion, perspectives, and rights of each partner. Ultimately, everyone in the district and community should understand that he/she is part of the same program.

Criterion 1:	The Early Childhood Advisory Council includes appropriate community representatives, meets regularly, and is integrally involved in advising on the preschool program.	Not yet	In progress	Fully met
and may i groups: p health age NAACP,	ory council is representative of the community nelude, but is not limited to, the following private providers, higher education, mental encies, kindergarten/first grade teachers, social service providers, Head Start agencies, and family advocates.			
	ory council includes a representative of the Early Childhood Education as an ex- officio			
fill the ne	e been set in motion to recruit a candidate to w position of Community and Parent ent Specialist who will staff the advisory and oversee/facilitate the community needs nt.			
	ory Council Membership Roster ory Council Action Plan (designated responsibilities)			

Advisory Council Bylaws

Minutes

Program Are Community C	a: Tollaboration-continued				
Criterion 2:	There are regularly scheduled meetings with providers, including Head Start.	Not yet	In progress	Fully met	N A
_	nclude provider directors, Head Start directors appropriate, principals and vice principals.				
	ystem in place to make certain that minutes at each meeting and distributed for review.				
Sources of InMeetinMinute	ng dates				
Criterion 3:	The needs and goals of the community are being met.	Not yet	In progress	Fully met	
Indicators: □ A commun	ity assessment takes place regularly.				
	at document new linkages and an ability to obtain esources are available.				

Program Area: *Head Start*

Rationale: In Abbott VIII (February 2002), the New Jersey Supreme Court made clear its mandate to fully include in Abbott preschool those children served in federally funded Head Start programs. To avoid "duplicate[ing] programs or services otherwise available in the community," as required by *N.J.A.C.* 6A:24-3.3(b), districts should utilize Head Start providers unless they are not "able and willing to comply" with Abbott preschool standards, or unless the cost of doing so is demonstrably more expensive than other high-quality alternatives. The DOE need not offer additional funding for services designed to meet federal regulations unless there is a need to improve those services to meet state standards.

Cr	iterion 1:	District works to ensure full inclusion of Head	Not yet	In progress	Fully met	N A
		Start.	\square_1	\square_2	\square_3	\square_4
	dicators: Inclusion p to the DOI	olan has been developed and submitted E.				
		ervice and professional development re held to address curriculum issues.				
		ssions are held to determine who will lead ining and topics to be covered are a shared				
		embers are aware of the Preschool Teaching and Expectations: Standards of Quality.				

- Head Start Plan
- Attendance records
- Minutes

Program Area: Curriculum and Program

Rationale: Curriculum broadly speaking is what schools teach. This includes all that is planned for children in the classroom, such as learning centers, morning circle, or a teacher-initiated small-group activity. Curriculum also includes the unplanned - those experiences a child has while building a bridge with paper towel tubes, string and popsicle sticks, waiting for the bus, eating at the snack table, or having a temper tantrum. Curriculum, then, is the entire range of experiences that children have at school. Creative arts, health, safety, and physical education, language arts literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, world languages, and social/emotional development are equally important components of a preschool program.

Criterion 1:	The preschool curriculum is effective in	Not yet	In progress	Fully met
	helping children learn and develop.	\square_1	\square_2	\square_3
-	nool curriculum meets the <i>Preschool Teaching</i> ning Expectations: Standards of Quality.			
children in special ne naturally s	nool curriculum meets the specific needs of the in the district. For example, children with seds and English language learners are supported in the learning environment with its and supports as necessary.			
☐ The curricu	ulum is being implemented as intended.			
	re provided with the necessary resources to the curriculum.			
	eceive professional development that enables inplement the curriculum as intended.			
☐ Each class assistant.	has an appropriately certified teacher and an			
☐ The maxim	num number of students in a class is fifteen.			
	facilities and other areas used by the children gram standards.			

Program Area:

Curriculum and Program-continued

- Written approved curriculum
- Structured program observation instruments (such as Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS), Supports for Early Literacy Assessment (SELA), and Preschool Classroom Mathematics Inventory (PCMI), Preschool Quality Assessment (PQA)
- Lesson plans and observations
- Database containing teacher credentials
- Class roster outlining numbers of children per classroom
- DHS square footage requirements

Program Area: Supporting English Language Learners

Rationale: Best practice and research dictates that both English and the child's home language should be actively supported (McLaughlin, 1995, Snow, 1993; TESOL Standards). In order to be successful in U.S. schools and ultimately in the workplace, children need to be fluent in English but not at the expense of losing their first languages. Teachers need extra guidance and support to effectively create learning opportunities in the context of meaningful interactions and materials that focus on both first-language maintenance, as well as English proficiency.

Criterion 1:	All English language learners receive systematic support for language acquisition in their natural preschool environment.	Not yet	In progress	Fully met
language lea	nded strategies/techniques to support English arners are followed as discussed in the <i>Abbott</i> Program Implementation Guidelines (Winter,			
of creating a	ceive professional development in the process a language-rich environment that facilitates arning of the child's home or primary language, nglish.			
	observations are used to assess the degree to lish language students are supported in the			
Sources of In	formation: Lesson plans and observations Professional development agendas and evaluations Structured program observation instruments			
Criterion 2:	Children are encouraged to maintain their primary	Not yet	In progress	Fully met
	ies for children to utilize their primary language in ritten form are made available on a daily basis.	ப 1	L	_ 3

Supporting E	ea: Inglish Language Learners-continued			
languages	e made aware of the importance of maintaining both and are provided with examples of tools and techniques his learning at home.			
Sources of Ir	formation:			
	ured program observation instruments les of parent communication			
		Not yet	In progress	Fully met
Criterion 3:	The bilingual specialist master teacher fulfills the roles and responsibilities outlined in the <i>Abbott Preschool Implementation Guidelines</i> .	\square_1	\square_2	\square_3
Indicators:				
_	ual specialist master teacher models, coaches les feedback to teachers in how to facilitate			
-	equisition and to promote oral language in the			
preschool				

Program Area: Special Education

Rationale: According to the *Individuals with Disabilities Act* (IDEA), every child who is eligible for special education services is entitled to a free and appropriate education in the least restrictive environment (LRE). Therefore, preschool children with disabilities should be afforded the opportunity to participate and interact with their peers who do not have disabilities in natural settings. Such settings include, but are not limited to, home and family, play groups, child care, nursery schools, Head Start programs, kindergarten and neighborhood school classrooms (CEC-DEC). Many positive outcomes have been reported that support these practices, including increased performance of disabled students and improved classroom behavior, as well as positive effects on the attitudes of typically developing students concerning children with disabilities.

Criterion 1: Children with disabilities are included in general education classrooms to the maximum extent possible.	Not yet	In progress	Fully met
Indicators:□ Children with disabilities are placed in general education classes in the proportion that they are found in the regular population.			
☐ The general education staff are well trained and supported by special education specialists.			
☐ Support services are in place to support individual student needs (e.g., occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech, preschool intervention & referral specialists).			
☐ The classroom teacher has specialized knowledge about inclusion.			
☐ Master teacher inclusion specialists are employed and have specialized knowledge in inclusion practices and provisions.			
☐ The master teacher inclusion specialist provides appropriate guidance and information to general education teachers regarding the special education process.			
☐ The classroom teacher collaborates with the child study team, master teacher, preschool intervention and			

□ Program Area: Special Education-continued			
referral specialists and parents as determined by the student's individualized education plan (IEP).			
Sources of Information:			
 Professional development plans Master teacher schedule and anecdotes Planning schedules Meeting schedules Database Three-year Operational Plan 			
Criterion 2: A preschool intervention and referral team is fully staffed.	Not yet	In progress	Fully met
 Indicators: □ Preschool intervention and referral specialists have expertise in early childhood education and development. 			
☐ Preschool intervention and referral specialists confer regularly with the general education teachers and master teachers.			
☐ The preschool intervention and referral specialists assist with transitions from one program to another.			
☐ The preschool intervention and referral team should include the general education teacher, parent, child study team member(s) and other special education personnel.			
Sources of Information:			

	ogram Area: ecial Education-continued				
	iterion 3: Integrated therapies are offered thin the general education class.	Not yet	In pro	gress Fully me	t
	licators: The majority of therapies are carried out within the regular activities of the classroom.				
	Therapists work directly within the classroom, modeling for the classroom teacher and providing consultation.				
So	 Schedules of therapies Planning and consultation time Classroom observations 				
Cr	iterion 4: Administrative supports are in place that facilitate inclusion.		Not yet	In progress	Fully met
	licators: Meetings between early childhood and special education departments are regularly scheduled.				
	Opportunities for collaboration and consultation among teachers, therapists and child study teams and preschool intervention & referral teams are built into school schedule.				
	Effective horizontal articulation takes place regularly between district-operated programs and provider programs.				
So	urces of Information:				

• Schedule of meetings

• Minutes

Program Area: Staff Qualifications

Rationale: "The quality of the staff is the most important determinant of the quality of an early childhood program," (National Association for the Education of Young Children, 1998). Not only is it important for preschool classrooms to be staffed with individuals that have experience with young children, but also staff should have certification specific to early childhood. It is vital that all assistant teachers have at minimum a high school diploma or the equivalent.

Criterion 1:	All teachers hired after September 1999 have appropriate credentials and appropriate certification (Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing or Certificate of Eligibility).	Not yet	In progress	Fully met
	is used to document teacher credentials, enrollment, and adequate performance in urses.			
developed	, along with community partners, has a mentoring plan for P-3 alternate route that pproved by the Department of Education.			
Sources of In:DatabaUpdate				
Criterion 2:	In-district and community provider employees receive ongoing evaluations and reviews.	Not yet	In progress	Fully met
profession	rocedures to assess practice, facilitate al development, and methods for removal ition are in place and clearly defined.			
Criterion 3:	All assistant teachers have a high school diploma or equivalent and meet DHS licensing requirements, where applicable.	Not yet	In progress	Fully met

Program Area: Staff Qualifications-continued	
Indicators:☐ The district encourages assistant teachers to further their professional development and training.	
☐ Assistant teachers working in a school-wide Title I school must meet NCLB requirements.	
☐ A database is used to document the credentials of assistant teachers and any professional development training received.	
☐ Assistant teachers are able to communicate with teachers, children and parents using English.	
Sources of Information: • Database	
Criterion 4: All directors of private providers will meet DHS requirements to complete the Directors Academy by September 2004.	Not yet In progress Fully met NA
Indicators:☐ A database is used to track participation in the Directors' Academy sponsored by DHS.	
☐ All directors hired on or after January 1, 2006, will have a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education and the P-3 certificate and three years managerial and supervisory experience in a child care program or other related program.	
Sources of Information:	

• Database

• Director certificate

Program Area: Staff Qualifications-continued			
	Not yet	In progress	Fully met
Criterion 5: Master Teachers meet recommended qualifications.	\square_1	\square_2	\square_3
 Indicators: ☐ Master Teachers have received or are working towards becoming an Early Childhood Professional Development Fellow or the equivalent. 			
☐ Within the group of Master Teachers, there is expertise in bilingual education, special education, diverse learners and cross-curricular education.			
☐ All Master Teachers have their P-3 certificates or equivalent experience.			

- Master teacher qualifications
- Rosters of attendance at master teacher seminar

Program Area: Professional Development

Rationale: The preschool program should have a professional development plan directly related to the district's mission. It should include provisions for systematic ongoing training and be based on research on adult learning and children's development. In addition to identified basic training, a formal professional development needs assessment should be developed. Staff development geared specifically to the findings should be an integral part of the overall plan. Professional development should be geared toward helping children meet the standards outlined in the *Preschool Teaching and Learning Expectations: Standards of Quality* and should be available for district and provider teachers alike. The professional development plan should be expressly designed for both in-district and provider teachers, administrators and staff.

Criterion 1:	Professional development is based upon a needs assessment and is grounded in the knowledge base for preschool education.	Not yet	In progress	Fully met
	d observation instrument or set of instruments neasure quality practices in preschool			
opportunit	has specific goals and provides training ies to improve in weak areas identified by use ctured observation instrument and other in sources.			
structu	formation: Learning Improvement Consortium Reports (ELIC) (agginged observations) sis of data and written professional development plan	regated fr	rom	
Criterion 2:	Professional development that includes the benefits of preschool education and the elements of an effective preschool is available.	Not yet	In progress	Fully met

Program Area:

Professional Development-continued

Indicators: ☐ Support staff, including lunch assistants, custodians, and bus drivers, receive information about interacting with young children.
☐ Appropriate district and provider administrators are knowledgeable about preschool, including topics such as preschool language and literacy, evaluating and observing preschool teachers, classroom management, adult-child interaction and the Expectations.
☐ Specialists (music, art, physical education, etc.) are knowledgeable about the specific standards and techniques in their areas for working with young children.
☐ Child study teams, social workers, and their administrators are aware of and implement appropriate assessments and intervention methods for young children.
☐ The 100 hours of professional development, over a five- year period for all certified district and provider teachers, required by the New Jersey Department of Education, is specifically articulated and aligned to the participants' identified needs and within the district's professional development plan.
☐ A database is used to document teacher professional development.
☐ All district and provider teachers attend formal and informal training sessions based on the needs assessment.

- Professional development agendas and evaluations
- Spreadsheet
- Certificates

Program Are Professional I	a: Development-continued			
		Not yet	In progress	Fully met
Criterion 3:	Master Teachers fulfill the roles and responsibilities outlined in the <i>Abbott Preschool Program Implementation Guidelines</i> (Winter, 2003).		\square_2	\square_3
Indicators: ☐ Master Te	achers systematically plan and document interactions.			
	achers model, coach and provide feedback to teachers ol programs regarding developmentally e practice.			
bilingual ecconsultation	eachers with specific expertise (e.g. inclusion, ducation, math curriculum) provide n to other master teachers and to strict-wide, when appropriate.			
	rachers coordinate and articulate the professional nt plan for all early childhood education aff.			
follow-up s	achers provide classroom teachers with individualized upport which is documented and appropriate to s stage of development.			

Program Area: Child Screening

Rationale: According to the National Research Council (2002), locally driven, universal screening of young children is associated with better outcomes for all children, and will help identify those most at risk for achievement and behavior problems. It is required that all three- and four-year-old children in an Abbott preschool program be administered an initial screening. This information is never used to determine or deny placement. Rather, it is used to determine if a child is within the: 1) normal range of development, 2) re-screen range or 3) refer range, demonstrating the need for referral for a special education evaluation as explained by the screening instrument.

Criterion	1: A system of screening is in place. Screening instruments are carefully selected and used appropriately.	Not y	_	rogress Fu	ully me
Children Servin	Il Association for the Education of Young "Guidelines for Assessment in Programs g Children Ages 3 through 8" are followed YC Position Statement, 1990).				
	ng instruments are administered upon entry or the first few weeks of school.				
charac 1994): 1. Th aca 2. Th of cog gro 3. Th dev	ereening instruments with the following teristics are used (Meisels & Atkins-Burnett, ey sample development tasks rather than ademic readiness skills. ey focus on performance in a wide range of areas development including speech, language, gnition, perception, affect (social-emotional), oss and fine motor skills. ey include information about how the test was veloped, the sample population, and its validity d reliability.				
necess	ng is used to determine if further diagnosis is ary; it is never used as a sole means of ying children needing special services.				

Program Area: Child Screening-continued

Children who fall into the "re-screen" category are screened within the time frame recommended by the screening instrument (usually within six weeks).
Children, who fall into the "refer" category, after parental consent, are immediately referred to the child study team (via written referral) for further, more indepth evaluation.
Parents are advised as to the purpose and results of the screening and notified both before and after the screening takes place.

- Summaries of screening results
- Samples of parent communications
- Samples of Child Study Team communications
- Screening instruments and documentation
- Operational plan

Program Area: Child Assessment

Rationale: Assessment of young children is an ongoing process which includes identifying, collecting, describing, interpreting, and applying classroom-based evidence of early learning in order to make informed instructional decisions. This evidence may include records of children's conversations, their drawings, constructions, photographs, and anecdotal notes describing their behaviors. The primary purpose of the assessment of young children is to help educators determine appropriate classroom activities for individuals and groups of children and to inform training.

Criterion 1:	Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) is used appropriately and regularly to support each child's unique learning and developmental growth.	Not yet	In progress	Fully me
Indicators:	ue retop metata grovian			
□ National A Children "c Serving Ch	ssociation for the Education of Young Guidelines for Assessment in Programs ildren Ages 3 through 8" are followed sition Statement, 1990).			
for every o	of children's work are kept on a regular basis child and clearly illustrate and document development over a period of time.			
the follow across do permission	ons of children are intentional and use some of ing techniques while documenting progress mains: rating forms, photography (with n), narrative description, anecdotes, ng, tape recording and journals.			
•	n gathered about children is used when instruction and daily activities.			
communic	tions and observations are used in eations with both parents and staff (e.g., by Team, special educators, and therapists).			
profession teaching p	of the PBA are considered when planning nal development activities to further enhance practices (e.g., information on supporting anguage learners' language arts/literacy			

^{*} Criterion in italics represent new standards that may not be in effect until Phase II.

Program Area: Child Assessment-continued

☐ Items in children's portfolios are clearly aligned with the Preschool Teaching and Learning Expectations: Standards of Quality.*

- Portfolios
- Written observations
- Pre-existing Performance-Based Assessments, e.g., Work Sampling System, Child Observation Record
- Lesson plans
- Written communications and plans

^{*} Criterion in italics represent new standards that may not be in effect until Phase II.

Program Area: Health and Food Services

Rationale: "The provision of a safe and healthy environment is essential. No amount of good curriculum planning or positive adult-child interaction can compensate for an environment that is dangerous for children. Good quality early childhood programs act to prevent illness and accidents, are prepared to deal with emergencies should they occur, and also educate children concerning safe and healthy practices" (NAEYC, 1998). Children must also receive proper nutrition and learn safety procedures and healthy eating habits within and outside of the classroom environment.

Criterion 1:	The educational process is strengthened and facilitated by improving and protecting the health status of children.	Not yet	In progress	Fully met
maintain th Expectation	m is designed to help children reach and e <i>Preschool Teaching and Learning</i> as: Standards of Quality for health, safety al education.			
	child heath records are up to date and rother health issues are clearly stated.			
	available at a ratio of 1:300 students and ict and provider children.			
	teachers receive a written policy related to ss and school attendance.			
	minations are conducted for each Abbott child reschool: vision, hearing, dental, height, and eenings.			

- Nurses
- Health records
- Policy handbook or parent handbook
- ECERS-R
- Current license/inspection: DHS

Not yet	In progress	Fully met
	\square_2	\square_3
	Not yet	

Sources of Information:

- Child care food programECERS-R, if available
- National food program

Program Area: Parent Involvement

Rationale: Supportive partnerships around the child provide the type of environment in which families, schools, and the community work together to achieve and sustain shared goals for children. Ongoing communication and interaction encourages appropriate and effective learning opportunities for children. A well-defined plan is required for incorporating a wide range of family involvement and educational opportunities into the preschool program. With systematic coordination between home and school we can more meaningfully support all aspects of the child's life. If educators and parents work together, children have a greater chance of reaching their maximum potential.

parents to be involved.	Not yet	In progress	Fully met
Indicators: ☐ Family worker and/or social worker serves as a conduit between families and the identification and attainment of necessary services.			
☐ Parents volunteer in the classroom as helpers or by contributing and participating in other ways.			
☐ Parent meetings and workshops are offered at convenient times in order to allow for greater participation.			
☐ Parent activities are culturally diverse and multilingual.			
Criterion 2: Direct two-way communication with parents takes place regularly.	Not yet	In progress	Fully met
Indicators:☐ Flexible scheduling is available for parent teacher conferences.			
☐ Parents receive a procedure and policy handbook.			

Program Area: Parent Involvement-continued			
☐ Written communication related to the child is used as needed and presented in native language when necessary.			
☐ Parents are represented on the Early Childhood Advisory Council.			
☐ Information about the child and feedback about the program is solicited from the parents at school entry and throughout the year.			
 Sources of Information: Parent handbook Parent involvement plan Parent/teacher conference records Teacher log of parent contacts Registration/enrollment form Attendance records 			
Criterion 3: Family workers and/or social workers are active participants in the preschool program.	Not yet	In progress	Fully met
Indicators:☐ Family workers and social workers assist parents with obtaining services within the school district and the community.			
☐ Parents request the services of family workers and social workers, as needed.			
 Sources of Information: Weekly log/schedule Parent survey Community needs assessment 			

Program Area: Program Evaluation

Rationale: Program evaluation should be ongoing and include the input of the Early Childhood Advisory Council, administrators, provider and district teachers, aides, parents, and other support staff. All forms of program evaluation should be set up in a manner that allows honest and anonymous input. Information gathered from program evaluations should be used to improve the quality of the program, as well as identify and build upon strengths.

Criterion 1:	A self-study is completed with guidance provided by the Department of Education.	Not yet	In progress	Fully met
Indicator: ☐ Results of Operation	self-study inform the Three-year Preschool al Plan.			
Sources of In • Self-st				
Criterion 2:	The preschool program is evaluated annually.	Not yet	In progress	Fully met
provider a	dhood Advisory Council, administrators, and district teachers, aides, parents, and other aff are an integral part of the evaluation			
	ory council assists when analyzing collected nakes program adjustments, as necessary.			
Serving C	"Guidelines for Assessment in Programs hildren Ages 3 through 8" are followed Position Statement, 1990).			
	ce-based assessment data is examined by the ectively and used to inform professional nt plans.			

Program Area: Program Evaluation-continued

☐ If a standardized test is required, a sampling method is used to minimize testing time and associated effort.

Sources of Information:

- Surveys
- Minutes of staff and advisory council meetings

Supporting References

Office of Early Childhood Education – New Jersey Department of Education (2003). *Abbott Preschool Program Implementation Guidelines*. Trenton, NJ: New Jersey Department of Education.

Office of Early Childhood Education – New Jersey Department of Education (2002). *Preschool Teaching and Learning Expectations: Standards of Quality.* Trenton, NJ: New Jersey Department of Education.

National Association for the Education of Young Children (1990). Guidelines for appropriate curriculum content and assessment in programs serving children ages 3 through 8: A Position Statement for the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Washington, DC.

National Association for the Education of Young Children (1998). Accreditation Criteria & Procedures of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Washington, DC.

DISTRICT:

Criterion 1: Mission statement	Phase I			Phase II		
	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3 □	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2 □	Fully Met 3 □
Comments:						

• Administration		
<u>Criterion 1</u> : Administrator's	Phase I	Phase II
proper qualifications	N.W. I.B. F.H.W.	N.W. I.B. Ell.M.
	Not Yet In Progress Fully Met $1\square$ $2\square$ $3\square$	Not Yet In Progress Fully Met 1□ 2□ 3□
Comments:		
	l Di L	DI II
Criterion 2: Principals' early	Phase I	Phase II
childhood experience	Not Yet In Progress Fully Met N/A $1\square$ $2\square$ $3\square$ $4\square$	Not Yet In Progress Fully Met N/A 1□ 2□ 3□ 4□
Comments:	10 20 30 +0	10 20 30 +0
<u>Criterion 3</u> : Fiscal specialist	Phase I	Phase II
preschool program knowledge	Not Yet In Progress Fully Met	
Communication	1 2 3	1 2 3
Comments:		

DISTRICT:	

<u>Criterion 4</u> : Professional	Phase I			Phase II		
accounting standards	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□
Comments:	•			•		
<u>Criterion 5</u> : Analyzing provider	Phase I			Phase II		
budgets and financial reports	Not Yet	In Progress	Fully Met	Not Yet	In Progress	Fully Met
	1□	2□	3□	1□	2□	3□
Comments:						
Criterion 6: Tracking and	Phase I			Phase II		
certification	Not Yet	In Progress	Fully Met	Not Yet	In Progress	Fully Met
Comments:	1□	2□	3□	1□	2□	3□
Comments:						
B 10 10 10 1						
• Recruitment and Outreach				_		
Criterion 1: Recruitment	Phase I			Phase II		
strategies	Not Yet	In Progress	Fully Met	Not Yet	In Progress	Fully Met
Comments:	1□	2□	3□	1□	2□	3□

DISTRICT :

Criterion 2: Enrollment data	Phase I			Phase II		
	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□
Comments:						

• <u>Facilities</u>

Criterion 1: Long range facility plan	Phase I Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met	Phase II Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met
Comments:						
<u>Criterion 2</u> : Assess adequacy of facilities	Phase I Not Yet 1	In Progress 2□	Fully Met	Phase II Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□
Comments:						

• Community Collaboration

Criterion 1: Advisory Council	Phase I			Phase II		
	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□
Comments:						

DISTRICT:	

<u>Criterion 2</u> : Meetings with	Phase I			Phase II		
providers	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□
Comments:			-			-
<u>Criterion 3</u> : Goals of	Phase I			Phase II		
community	1 Hase 1			I Hast II		
Community	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□
Comments:						

• Head Start:

Criterion 1: Full inclusion of Head Start	Phase 1	[Phase II	[
	Not Yet	In Progress	Fully Met	N/A	Not Yet	In Progress	Fully Met	N/A
	1 🗆	2□	3□	4□	1 🗆	2□	3□	4□
Comments:								

• Curriculum and Program

Criterion 1: Preschool curriculum	Phase I			Phase II		
Carroulant	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□
Comments:						

DISTRICT:	
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• Supporting English Language Learners:

<u>Criterion 1</u> : Systematic support in natural environment	Phase I			Phase II		
support in natural chynolinicht	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□
Comments:						
	T			T		
<u>Criterion 2</u> : Primary language maintained	Phase I			Phase II		
	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Full Met 3□
Comments:						
	ı			1		
<u>Criterion 3</u> : Bilingual specialist master teacher role	Phase I			Phase II		
	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Full Met 3□
Comments:						

• Special Education:

Criterion 1: Children with disabilities included to maximum extent	Phase I Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	Phase II Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Full Met 3□
Comments:						

DISTRICT:	

Criterion 2: Preschool	Phase I			Phase II		
intervention and referral team is fully staffed	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Full Met 3□
Comments:						
<u>Criterion 3</u> : Therapies are	Phase I			Phase II		
offered within general education class	Not Yet	In Progress	Fully Met	Not Yet	In Progress	Full Met
Comments:	1□	2□	3□	1□	2□	3□
Criterion 4: Administrative	Phase I			Phase II		
supports for inclusion in place		I D	E II M		1 D	E IIM
	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Full Met 3□
Comments:						

• Staff Qualifications:

Criterion 1: Teacher certification	Phase I			Phase II		
	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Full Met 3□
Comments:						

DISTRICT :				
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<u>Criterion 2</u> : Employees evaluations and reviews	Phase I			Phase II		
evaluations and reviews	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□
Comments:						
<u>Criterion 3</u> : Assistant teachers	Phase I			Phase II		
requirements						
	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□
Comments:						
<u>Criterion 4</u> : Completion of	Phase I			Phase II		
Criterion 4: Completion of Directors' Academy		In Progress Fully 1 2□ 3□	Met N/A 4□	Phase II Not Yet I	n Progress Fully ! 2□ 3□	Met N/A 4□
	Not Yet	In Progress Fully 1	Met N/A 4□	Not Yet I	n Progress Fully I 2□ 3□	Met N/A 4□
Directors' Academy	Not Yet	In Progress Fully 1	Met N/A 4□	Not Yet I	n Progress Fully 1 2□ 3□	Met N/A 4□
Directors' Academy	Not Yet	In Progress Fully 1	Met N/A 4□	Not Yet I	n Progress Fully I 2□ 3□	Met N/A 4□
Directors' Academy	Not Yet	In Progress Fully 1	Met N/A 4□	Not Yet I	n Progress Fully I 2□ 3□	Met N/A 4□
Directors' Academy	Not Yet	In Progress Fully 1	Met N/A 4□	Not Yet I	n Progress Fully I 2□ 3□	Met N/A 4□
Criterion 5: Master Teachers	Not Yet	In Progress Fully 1	Met N/A 4□	Not Yet I	n Progress Fully I 2□ 3□	Met N/A 4□
Directors' Academy Comments:	Not Yet 1□ Phase I Not Yet	In Progress Fully 1 2□ 3□ In Progress	4□ Fully Met	Not Yet I □ Phase II Not Yet	2□ 3□ In Progress	4□ Fully Met
Criterion 5: Master Teachers	Not Yet 1□ Phase I	In Progress Fully 1 2□ 3□	40	Not Yet I I□ Phase II	20 30	4□
Comments: Criterion 5: Master Teachers qualifications	Not Yet 1□ Phase I Not Yet	In Progress Fully 1 2□ 3□ In Progress	4□ Fully Met	Not Yet I □ Phase II Not Yet	2□ 3□ In Progress	4□ Fully Met
Comments: Criterion 5: Master Teachers qualifications	Not Yet 1□ Phase I Not Yet	In Progress Fully 1 2□ 3□ In Progress	4□ Fully Met	Not Yet I □ Phase II Not Yet	2□ 3□ In Progress	4□ Fully Met
Comments: Criterion 5: Master Teachers qualifications	Not Yet 1□ Phase I Not Yet	In Progress Fully 1 2□ 3□ In Progress	4□ Fully Met	Not Yet I □ Phase II Not Yet	2□ 3□ In Progress	4□ Fully Met
Criterion 5: Master Teachers qualifications	Not Yet 1□ Phase I Not Yet	In Progress Fully 1 2□ 3□ In Progress	4□ Fully Met	Not Yet I □ Phase II Not Yet	2□ 3□ In Progress	4□ Fully Met

DISTRICT:	
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• **Professional Development:**

Criterion 1: Professional development	Phase I Not Yet	In Progress	Fully Met	Phase II Not Yet	In Progress 2□	Fully Met
Comments:	1	2	3	10	2⊔	3
Criterion 2: Benefits of	Phase I			Phase II		
professional development	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□
Comments						
<u>Criterion 3</u> : Role of Master Teachers	Phase I			Phase II		
	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□
Comments:						

• Child Screening:

<u>Criterion 1</u> : Screening	Phase I			Phase II		
	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□
Comments:						

DISTRICT:			
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• Child Assessment:

Criterion 1: Performance-based assessment	Phase I			Phase II			
	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	NotYet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	
Comments:							

• Health and Food Services:

Criterion 1: Protecting health	Phase I			Phase II		
status of children	N 4 N 4	I. D	E II M	N . W .	I D	E II M
	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	NotYet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□
Comments:						
Criterion 2: Nutrition	Phase I			Phase II		
Criterion 2. Nutrition	1 Hase 1			1 Hase II		
	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□
Comments:	1		<u> </u>	1.2		
Comments.						

• Parent Involvement:

<u>Criterion 1</u> : Opportunities for parent involvement	Phase I			Phase II		
	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□
Comments:						

DISTRICT:	
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<u>Criterion 2</u> : Two-way	Phase II			Phase II		
communication	Not Yet	In Progress	Fully Met	Not Yet	In Progress	Fully Met
	1□	2□	3□	1□	2□	3□
Comments:						
<u>Criterion 3</u> : Family workers/ social workers participate	Phase I			Phase II		
purity pu	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□
Comments:						

• **Program Evaluation:**

Criterion 1: Self study by DOE	Phase I			Phase II		
	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□
Comments:						
Critorian 2: Annual procedural	Dhasa I			Dhasa II		
Criterion 2: Annual preschool program evaluation	Phase I			Phase II		
	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□	Not Yet 1□	In Progress 2□	Fully Met 3□
Comments:						